



Ask Your United States Research Question

February 1, 2017

Question 1:

Daphne G: I am trying to find my great grandfather's, Walter Goodman changed to Goodwin, parents. The earliest census that he appears on is a 1870 census and he is 7 years old. He is living with his older sister and husband, Laurania (nee Guy) and Watkin Lee Ambler. There are no records on his sister prior to 1870 so I think they were slaves. How do I find his parents who were probably slaves. Now Walter's death certificate states that his father's name was Thomas Hodges. I believe this is true because that's what he named his firstborn son. Walter had 2 daughters: Edwina and Leonelle. Eight children total. How do I find slaves when I can't even find the right Thomas Hodges? From Alexandria, Louisiana. I find a shipping manifest that shows a child Walter Goodman coming to US from Panama. I have no idea if this is him or not. Also he never used his Dad's name, Hodges as a surname. Hodges is a family name for us now. Oh we are black but in a picture of Walter Hodges, he looks Hispanic to me. All of Walter Goodman/Hodges records state he was born in Louisiana.

1. Did his brother-in-law serve in the Civil War? (Did the US Colored Troops get pensions?) Colored troops did get pensions.
2. Are there any other siblings?
3. Are there any obituaries for Thomas Hodges?
4. Get a death certificate or obituary for Laurania Guy.
5. African-American church records in the area.
6. The shipping manifest from Panama to the US. It is not likely that they would list a slave on a manifest.
7. Another sister is Adelia Stephens nee Hines
8. 1870 census for Louisiana and Walter Goodman who is living in Alexandria Parish, is age 17 in the census. Born about 1853
9. Who was the informant on the death record for Walter?
10. What about Notarial records for Louisiana? Those are listed in our catalog by parish and the name of the notary.
11. So he could be listed as a slave on the 1860 slave schedule. Look for Hodges in Alexandria, Louisiana to see if they have a slave the right age for Walter Goodman.
12. Look for the Guy surname, try Hines to see what slaveholders are living in the area.

13. Look for Hodges, Guy, and Hines slaveholders and look at the number of slaves and their approximate ages to see if you can find these 3 children. Also check in surrounding counties for these surnames.
14. Then look at probate records for the slaveholder to see if they were given to any children of the slaveholder.
15. Freedmen's bureau records. <http://www.freedmensbureau.com/> found nothing.
16. FamilySearch Research Wiki for African-American Genealogy: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/African_American_Genealogy
17. Marriages for the siblings of Walter Goodman.
18. Look for death records for both sisters.
19. African-American newspapers in the area that may be on microfilm.
20. Access Genealogy: <https://www.accessgenealogy.com/black-genealogy/louisiana-african-american-genealogy.htm>
21. Discover Freedman: <http://www.discoverfreedmen.org/>

Question 2:

Christine: I am looking for information on Ebenezer Newell Combs of Connecticut. He marries in CT probably around 1800 Mary Ann Humiston. Ebenezer, Mary, and a lot of Humistons moved to Trumbull County, OH around 1803 based on land records. Ebenezer dies around 1812 based on his probate. I have tried a lot of online Ct records without success. I am in CA so onsite CT research is a challenge. any ideas of CT records?

1. Already look at probate.
2. Didn't find any marriages.
3. Contact the local genealogical or historical societies to see if they will do some lookups in the area.
4. Check the Library Catalog for Trumbull County County Histories to see if any of them have been digitized.
5. Check land deeds for Trumbull County. The deeds could say where in Connecticut he came from. Already been checked, no mention of Connecticut.
6. Barber Collection is available at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com. Checked already.
7. What suggests he was from Connecticut? Wife's family is from Connecticut.
8. Do you know where the children were born from the census records from 1850 on? Connecticut for the first child and the other children were born in Ohio.
9. Revolutionary War, he may be too early. DAR or SAR could check for siblings.
10. Search for manuscripts via NEHGS and Archive Grid for diaries of anyone who moved from New Haven to Ohio.
11. Where in Connecticut are the Humiston's from? From New Haven.
12. Looking for the marriage of Ebenezer to Mary in New Haven County or Woodbridge. Also a birth record for the first child.
13. Contacting genealogical or historical societies in New Haven for see if there are church records available.

14. American Ancestors at www.americanancestors.org A member and has searched.
15. Land records in New Haven County for the Combs family.
16. Probate records for the Combs family in New Haven County.
17. Check records for Woodbridge, New Haven County, Connecticut.
18. Look for land records because sometimes they will have birth, marriage, and death records in them for Woodbridge.
19. Trumbull, CO, Ohio is in what was the original CT Western Reserve family members who served in Rev War may have been link ie chain migration?
20. Ancestry FamilyTree that includes Humason (versus Humiston) and Ebenezer Combs. It is a Combs Tree.
21. Also check NUCMC www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/ for diaries and manuscripts

Question 3:

Melody - Cotter, AR: Having trouble with finding my Clark's. I have John S Clark born about 1808 TN married Lucinda Covington born about 1818 KY married 1838 Hardeman County, TN. Have them living in Hardeman County, TN in 1840 Montgomery County, MO in 1850 and nothing else. They have 4 boys John W 1841 - 1913 - I have DNA match and confirmation on him, Richard Elijah 1845 - 1897 - I have DNA match and confirmation on him Joel Samuel 1846 - ? 1921 - My Great Grandfather Nathaniel 1849 - ? Help, where do I look next?

1. Land and property records for Hardeman County, for Clark and Covington families to see if there are some siblings or parents.
2. Set of Tennessee marriage record indexes for Tennessee for a possible first marriage.
3. The land records may give where the land is located and you could find church records for that area.
4. J Mark Lowe has an article on doing research across boundaries & says to check on both sides of the border. <http://www.archives.com/experts/lowe-j-mark/border-jumping-researching-across-state-county-borders.html>
5. Any Clark or Covington families following them to the area in Montgomery County.
6. Did John Clark serve in the Civil War or his children? Could be Union or Confederate.
7. Married by a Justice of the Peace in Ancestry. Clark/Covington
8. TN county chronologies
[http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/TN Individual County Chronologies.htm#Individual County Chronologies](http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/TN_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#Individual_County_Chronologies)
9. Finding death records or obituaries for all of the children that may give clues about where they came from.
10. Hardeman County, Tennessee county histories to see if there is any information in them about the family, especially migration routes, etc.

11. TN county chronologies http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/TN_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#Individual_County_Chronologies
12. KY county timeline http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/documents/KY_Individual_County_Chronologies.htm#Individual_County_Chronologies
13. County history info <http://genealogytrails.com/tenn/hardeman/resource.html>
14. Read about the history of Montgomery County to find migration patterns. You also may want to print out the 1860 census for Montgomery County and screen for children's names. There is a lot of space between parents' marriage in 1838 and 1850 so children would be grown up and out on their own by 1860.
15. Hardeman Co, TN is east of Memphis on the Alabama border.
16. John died in 1913 in Oklahoma but one child's death certificate may give a state and county of where the child was born.
17. Oklahoma birth and death indexes:
<https://ok2explore.health.ok.gov/App/BirthSearch> and
<https://ok2explore.health.ok.gov/App/DeathSearch>
18. Periodical Source Index (PERSI) for all the localities at heritagequest.com and findmypast.com.
19. Stay in touch on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1805859502989278/>
20. Upcoming webinars
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars